

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A method for detecting devices connected to a network, comprising:
sending a scan request to a remote command process running on a remote network
host;
scanning the network host with the remote command process to determine if
devices are connected to the host; and
receiving a response to the scan request from the remote command process that
indicates whether a device is connected to the network host.
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2. The method of claim 1, wherein a controller process is used to send the
scan request to the remote command process.
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3. The method of claim 2, wherein the controller process runs on a network
host.
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4. The method of claim 1, wherein scanning the network host with the
remote command process comprises sending a scan request from the remote command
process to a host application program interface.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein scanning the network host with the remote command process further comprises receiving device addresses from the application program interface and requesting information from the devices directly via the addresses.

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6. The method of claim 1, further comprising maintaining an updated list of each network host running a remote command process with a host lookup process.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising consulting the list prior to sending the scan request.

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8. The method of claim 1, further comprising sending multiple scan requests to multiple remote command processes stored on network hosts.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the scan requests are sent in parallel.

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10. The method of claim 1, further comprising communicating information concerning the detected devices to a user.

11. A device detection system for detecting devices connected to a network, comprising:

means for sending a scan request to a remote command process running on a remote network host;

5 means for scanning the network host with the remote command process to determine if devices are connected to the host; and

means for receiving a response to the scan request from the remote command process that indicates whether a device is connected to the network host.

10 12. The system of claim 11, wherein a controller process is used to send the scan request to the remote command process.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the controller process runs on a network host.

15 14. The system of claim 11, wherein the means for scanning the network host with the remote command process comprises means for sending a scan request from the remote command process to a host application program interface.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the means for scanning the network host with the remote command process further comprises means for receiving device addresses from the application program interface and requesting information from the devices directly via the addresses.

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16. The system of claim 11, further comprising means for maintaining an updated list of each network host running a remote command process with a host lookup process.

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17. The system of claim 16, further comprising means for consulting the list prior to sending the scan request.

18. The system of claim 11, further comprising means for sending multiple scan requests to multiple remote command processes stored on network hosts.

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19. The system of claim 18, wherein the scan requests are sent in parallel.

20. The system of claim 11, further comprising means for communicating information concerning the detected devices to a user.

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21. A device detection system for detecting devices connected to a network, comprising:

logic configured to send a scan request to a remote command process running on a remote network host;

5 logic configured to scan the network host with the remote command process to determine if devices are connected to the host; and

logic configured to receive a response to the scan request from the remote command process that indicates whether a device is connected to the network host.

10 22. The system of claim 21, wherein a controller process is used to send the scan request to the remote command process.

23. The system of claim 22, wherein the controller process runs on a network host.

15 24. The system of claim 21, wherein the logic configured to scan the network host with the remote command process comprises logic configured to send a scan request from the remote command process to a host application program interface.

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25. The system of claim 24, wherein the logic configured to scan the network host with the remote command process further comprises logic configured to receive device addresses from the application program interface and requesting information from the devices directly via the addresses.

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26. The system of claim 21, further comprising logic configured to maintain an updated list of each network host running a remote command process with a host lookup process.

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27. The system of claim 26, further comprising logic configured to consult the list prior to sending the scan request.

28. The system of claim 21, further comprising logic configured to send multiple scan requests to multiple remote command processes stored on network hosts.

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29. The system of claim 28, wherein the scan requests are sent in parallel.

30. The system of claim 21, further comprising logic configured to communicate information concerning the detected devices to a user.

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31. A device detection system for remotely detecting devices connected to a network, comprising:

a controller process running on a first network host, the controller process being configured to send a scan request to a remote network host; and

5 a remote command process stored on a second network host, the remote command process being configured to receive the scan request sent by the controller process and initiate a scan of the second network host to determine whether devices are connected to the second network host.

10 32. The system of claim 31, further comprising a host lookup process that maintains an updated list of every network host that is running a remote command process.

15 33. The system of claim 32, wherein the host lookup process runs on the first network host.

34. The system of claim 32, wherein the host lookup process runs on a third network host.